

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 3. 1709.

IT has always been the Usage of this Paper and of its Author in all Cases, never to strike his Enemy when he is down— 'Tis not a generous *English* Way of Fighting—and I scorn the Advantage of it— If the Author of *Scandal*, if the *Rebearsal* reviv'd is taken up, and fallen, through any of his Inadvertencies, into the Hands of the Government, he has enough upon him, I wish him well out again; I shall never officiously prompt any Man's Disasters.

But to you, Gentlemen, who call your selves Friends to the Church of *England*— or who are Teachers and Ministers of the Church of *England*, give me leave to offer one *Eclaircissement* to you for the restoring

your reflecting Faculties in this Case— You may even in this Case see, how you are us'd in the World, and who-underhand, screws and works you up, as if you were meer Engines or Machines, and makes you subserve to their vile Projects in all your *High-Flying* Extravagancies— You may see it plainly in this— That whenever a virulent Pamphlet, a *High-Church* Memorial, a *Scots Narrative*, or any such inflaming Libel is publish'd— The Authors are all Non-Jurors— Your *Rebearsal* formerly written, your New *Rebearsal* reviv'd, your *Novel* and *Scandal*, all profess'd Non-Jurors— These, whose Interest it is to be your Dividers and your Destroyers; These are your Pamphleteers, and

and set up to be your Defenders—
 scandalous Blindness! How can you be so
 dark! How is it possible, Men in their
 their Sences should be thus impos'd upon!
 Can a Non-Juror argue for the Church?—
 Can he be suppos'd to defend the Clergy,
 and support the Constitution of the Church!
 Just so this is, and no more, than Guy Faux's
 Timber and Stones, which he hid in the
 Cellar, were to support the Foundations
 of the Parliament House, and preserve the
 Assembly that met above— Whereas in
 Truth they were laid to hide Gun-Powder
 that was laid under them, and to assist in
 carrying up the whole Building, when the
 Mine was to be fir'd.

Awake, Gentlemen, and rouse your
 selves for Shame— Can Jacobites and
 Non-Jurors be your Defence—Do they not
 disown your Establishment? Do they not
 declare you Schismatical? Do they not tell
 you, you are fallen from the true Founda-
 tion? Have they not unbishop'd all your
 Prelates, and ungospeliz'd all your Mini-
 sters; unhing'd all your Establishment, and
 unblest'd your Sovereign and Head? —
 Do not they reserve their Allegiance for
 another Line, their Worship in another
 Synagogue? — Do they not pray to God
 to dethrone and depose your QUEEN, in
 constantly praying for the restoring a con-
 temptible Pretender? — In a Word, Are
 they not in close Confederacy with France,
 and Hell, to undermine the Revolution, un-
 ravel the Succession, and invade the Union?

And are these your Teachers? — Are
 these your blessed Oracles, whose Libels
 you read with pleasure, whose Volumes
 you collect, who you permit to summon
 your Clergy to exert themselves, *Rehearsal*
Reviv'd, Vol. II. p. 2. What, Gentlemen!
 has the Church of England no Defender of
 her own, no Champions to plead her Cause,
 or Fight her Battles— but these that damn
 her Constitution, and declare War against
 her Establishment? This is very hard—
 The Case of the Church of England will be
 sad indeed— she will be crucified between
 Thieves indeed at this rate, when Non-
 Jurors on one Hand, and High-Flyers on
 the other, surround her— What is become
 of the Learning, Wit, and Vigour, the Vi-

vacuity of Spirit, Beauty of Stile, and Strength
 of Argument that use to appear among the
 Writers of the Church of England? Cer-
 tainly, either the Men are all dead, and
 there are none left in the Church able to
 defend her; all her present Clergy are ig-
 norant, incapable, dull, and sleepy, and
 not able to speak a Word for her— or
 else the Case is quite another than we un-
 derstand it— The Quarrel is not right,
 that the Men of Capacity, Honour, Part,
 and Integrity in the Church are on the other
 Side, and will not meddle with it.

And indeed here is the Case in few
 words— The Wise, Sober, Judicious,
 Learned Men among the Church— abhor
 this Strife, the Contention is detestable—
 They cannot see their Heads in Jacobite
 Confusions, or their Pens in Defence of
 High-flying Absurdities— Moderation
 and Christian Charity to Dissenters, Union
 with a Sister Nation of Protestants—
 Establishing the Succession in a Protestant
 Line, these are things so evidently valua-
 ble, so happy to us all, so essential to our
 Peace, and of such infinite Consequence to
 us all, that these Gentlemen cannot find it
 reasonable to oppose them; They see the
 Safety of the Church in those very things
 in which this furious Party cries out of
 Danger and Destruction, and they see Dan-
 ger and Destruction in those very things
 that this wicked Party pretend Safety and
 Deliverance: Wise Men are always Men of
 Peace, and Good Men, Men of Moderation—

This is the Reason why, when you come
 to enquire into *Rehearsals* and *Post-*
scripts, *Memorials* and *Narratives*, and
 all your raving Pamphlets, you find
 the Authors all, every one of them Non-
 Jurors.

This is the Reason, when Dr. S—
 lifted up his bloody Flag lately at St.
 Paul's, the Honest, Wise, Judicious
 Gentlemen that heard him, would not
 accept his Invitation to Blood, nor
 thank him for his laudable Endeavours
 of inflaming the Nation.

This is the Reason, why her Majesty has
 so frequently pledg'd Her MAIDEN
 HONOUR, I mean that ROYAL
 WORD,

WORD, which, contrary to the Usage of Princes, especially in this Age, was NEVER YET broken; that the Toleration shall be preserved INVIO-
LABLE.

This was the Reason, why the Parliament, tho' Nineteen Parrs of Twenty were profess'd Members of the Church of *England*, yet rejected that illegal Project of the Occasional Bill.

This was the Reason why the Nation spued out the TACKERS at the next Election, and of the Hundred Thirty Four, few above a Third could ever get into the House again.

This is the Reason, why the Honour of the Government is given now to the People of *Scotland*, to assure them of a punctual Regard to the Union, which that wretched Party are Daily encroaching upon by Jacobite Innovations.

This is the Reason why the Pamphlets and Clamours of *Jacobites* are suppress'd,

and the Government keeps Steady to the Principle of preserving the Nation's Peace.

Certainly the Eyes of the World will *some time or other* be opened—and they will see—That while these Wolves keep the Sheep, they have something else in View, than preserving the Fold—The Cause must have something else in it, when it is defended by such Advocates: The Church of *England* certainly cannot be reduc'd to that pass, to be defended by *Jacobites*—Those to plead for her, that hate and disown her; those to be her Champions, that are her declar'd Enemies—Lamentable Auxiliaries these will be indeed—if they Conquer in her Name they'll serve her just as our Ancestors here did the poor *Britains*, first Save them, and then Devour them—if they are Conquered, they'll let her fall, and stand at a Distance to Laugh at her Destruction.

MISCELLANEA.

AMong the mighty Arguments of a late Paper against Atheism and Error, the Liberty of the Press was brought as a particular Thing; which being restrained, would go a great way to prevent those Mischiefs—Now waving my needful Remark on the other, pernicious Designs which visibly appeared in the great Clamour they raised at the Liberty of the Press, I took the Freedom to give my Thoughts on the same Head.

I agree in complaining of the present Scandalous Liberty of the Press—I'll state it briefly with its Evils and Remedies.

The Evil Consequences of the present Liberty of the Press are such as these.

1. The scandalous and unjust Invasions of Property—by which Printers and

Booksellers now make Inroads upon one another, and upon Authors, with the same Honesty and Freedom, as plundering on the High-Way would be done, if there were no Law against Robbery; and this is an Evil so fatal, and so just a Reproach to a well-govern'd Nation, that it is a most unaccountable Thing, by what ill Fate the Attempts to rectify it have hitherto been rendred Abortive.

2. The great Discouragement this is to Learning and Industry, by which Means already the best Writers of this Age have laid down and despair'd; being not willing to spend their Days and Labour to be devoured by Thieves; and all the mighty Works of this Age are summ'd up in the poultry Collections of Booksellers, and Hackneys employ'd by them; upon which they put the gay Titles of Histories, Annals, Voy-